

## MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**Tuesday, May 8, 2007**

**3:34 p.m.**

**Room 307 House Office Building, Lansing**

Representative Mayes, Chair, called the Committee to order.

**MEMBERS PRESENT: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Leland, Sheltroun, Walker, Nitz, Ball, Meekhof. (10/11)**

**ABSENT/EXCUSED: Representative Kathleen Law. (1/11)**

Representative Nitz made a motion to excuse absent members. No objections being offered, absent members were excused.

The Chair laid the following resolutions and bill before the Committee.

- |        |              |   |
|--------|--------------|---|
| HR 64  | Mayes        | A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to take action to investigate and provide remedies for those injured by the recent contamination of pet food and deaths of family pets. |
| HR 77  | Kathleen Law | A resolution to memorialize the Congress of the United States to fund fully the Select Michigan agricultural program through the United States Department of Agriculture.                             |
| SB 350 | Garcia       | Income tax; other; animal welfare fund; create.   |

Chair Mayes reviewed the contents of HR 64 with the Committee.

Jim Bowes, Emergency Response Manager for the Pesticide and Plant Management Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA), spoke in support of HR 64.

Liesl Eichler-Clark, representing the MDA, spoke in support of HR 77.

Senator Garcia spoke to the Committee regarding the provisions of SB 350 and answered questions.

Larry Steckleberg, representing the Michigan Department of Treasury, spoke in support of SB 350.

Cards for SB 350 were submitted by:

Anna Scott, representing the Animal Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, in support

Linda Reider, representing the Michigan Humane Society, in support  
Peter Ruddell, representing the Humane Society of the United States, in support  
Tonia Ritter, representing the Michigan Farm Bureau, neutral on the bill

Chair Mayes stated that the Committee would vote on SB 350, HR 77 and HR 64.

Representative Byrum made a motion to report SB 350 with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**Yeas: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Leland, Sheltroun, Walker, Nitz, Ball, Meekhof. (10/11)**

**Nays: None. (0/11)**

**Pass: None. (0/11) (10/0/0)**

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Sheltroun made a motion to report HR 77 with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**Yeas: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Leland, Sheltroun, Walker, Nitz, Ball, Meekhof. (10/11)**

**Nays: None. (0/11)**

**Pass: None. (0/11) (10/0/0)**

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Representative Sheltroun made a motion to report HR 64 with recommendation.

**FAVORABLE ROLL CALL:**

**Yeas: Representatives Mayes, Byrum, Angerer, Brown, Leland, Sheltroun, Nitz, Ball. (8/11)**

**Nays: None. (0/11)**

**Pass: Representatives Walker, Meekhof. (2/11) (8/0/2)**

A sufficient number of members voting in the affirmative, the motion prevailed.

Gordon Wenk, Director of the MDA Stewardship Program, and Janice Swartz Wilford, MDA Program Manager of the Pollution Prevention Section, provided a presentation to the Committee regarding the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program. Topics discussed included: the MAEAP Mission statement, a definition of MAEAP, MAEAP systems, reasons for participation in MAEAP, and MAEAP program updates. Discussion followed.

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Representative Angerer made a motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2007. No objections being offered, a unanimous ballot was cast to accept the minutes as presented.

There being no additional business before the Committee, Chair Mayes declared the meeting adjourned, the time being 4:27 p.m.

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Representative Jeff Mayes, Chair

Catherine Petroskey, Committee Clerk  
(517) 373-8538